

# NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY:  
THE 307TH BOMB WING B47/KC97 ASSOCIATION

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NUMBER 9

JANUARY 1992

EDITOR: HELEN ECELBARGER

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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Hello again! I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With the coming of the New Year it's only four short months until our next reunion. It seems like only yesterday that we were in Lincoln.

During our business meeting, we will be selecting a site for the '94' reunion. If you wish to have it in your hometown, don't be bashful. SPEAK UP! It's a lot of fun and hard work, but the rewards are tremendous.

The other order of business will be to select a new Chairman for the association. In accordance with the Association By-Laws, this must be accomplished every two years. I've really enjoyed the job, and you will too. You have a great bunch of people to work with. If you would like the job, let someone know now or at the business meeting.

In newsletter #8, on the inside of the back cover, is a questionnaire from Hank. Please fill it out and send it to him as soon as possible if you are planning on attending the reunion.

In the center of the newsletter was an application for membership. This doesn't cost anything, but in order for us to retain our tax exempt status, we must maintain over 50% of the assigned wing personnel as association members. If you haven't returned one of these to Vern Biaett, 9519 Timberline

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## REUNION NEWS FOR 1992

Dear Helen:

I hope that this arrives in time for your next newsletter, I think you mentioned one around the first of the year.

The reunion Committee will meet for the second time in Orlando, mid January in the never ending process of organizing the May 1992 Reunion. As a result of our previous Newsletter, we have received about sixty responses from members. That's not bad, but we still need an accurate count for planning purposes. We will be mailing out reservation forms late in January. Please reply as soon as possible upon receipt, in order for the Committee to finalize our plans. We need your cooperation.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

We have reserved a dance band - definitely **not rock**; more on the "Big Band" theme, slow and sentimental music for the older generation (Hank includes himself in this category). For those who will be arriving in Recreational Vehicles/Campers.. the "Yogi Bears Jellystone

Park Camp Ground is one of the best in the area", two miles from the Reunion site and in the center of the Greater Orlando Attractions. We'll send info when you send in your reservations for the reunion.

For those needing facilities for the handicapped, make a notation on the hotel reservation forms. There are plenty available.

Car rentals are available at the airport and at the Hotel. It would be best if you get your own car reservations.

Bill Holden is in the process of getting us a "Four starred" speaker (no pun intended). Upon his agreement to join us, we'll identify him - you'll be pleased!

Bill Darden has volunteered to make all arrangements for those who would like to play golf. More on that subject at a later date. For those who might enjoy a side trip to the Kennedy Space Center, we'll get one organized. With the cost of bus transportation, however, we just may set up a car pool and avoid any astronomical expenses.

More details will be passed along in the future, I know all of you would like to attend, but now it's a matter of **WILL YOU**. If I can't fill up the 250 rooms I reserved, my next address will be "somewhere in the Bahamas".

Hank

T H E  
L A S T F L I G H T

Norman J. Gates

Kenneth Gallagher

Patrick J. Ness

Raleigh D. Smith

It is so hard to write this column and see the names of loved ones. You don't realize they are gone until you see the names in print. Someday all of our names will be in print. The Veteran's Memorial Wall makes you feel that way. It is with sadness that we remember our fallen comrades. We should look at all the joy they brought into our lives. I like to think that they have flown off into the sunset!!!

O U R P R A Y E R S  
A R E N E E D E D!!

Dear Helen:

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoy the newsletter.

As you know, Bob and I attended the reunion in Las Vegas in 1988. Two months later Bob had a cerebral hemorrhage and some major strokes. He does not speak and only moves his eyes! - I'm not even sure he recognizes me! He's now in a re-hab Center (The Greenery) in Worcester, Mass.

I am so glad we went to that Reunion! It was our last trip and we had a great time.

I'm enclosing a check to help with postage etc...

Please just keep us in your prayers.

Mrs Robert Collins (Mary Kay)

31 Maxwell Rd.

Garden City, N.Y. 11530

Editors Note: You are in our prayers Mary Kay and we are hoping for the best to your both.

Thank you for your \$10.00 contribution to the newsletter.

A friend is one who knows all about you and still likes you.

## MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

From Sedge Hill, President  
Nebraska Flying Boxcars  
and association member

It was good to receive the latest news on the 'ol 307th and know that "we" are still a pliable organization, but then I should have known that a "quality" outfit such as ours will remain in the black for years to come with such VIP's at its head!!! Nevertheless, please put my little donation in the place where it will do the most good to get others to "pick up their share of the re-spon-si-bilitys".

Being a member of two great organizations, of the flying type, does at times, present a problem as to where and what your abilities will allow you to do. I guess, what I'm leading up to is; Has anyone come up with the idea that maybe we, the outfit, should have a "hard cover, bound, coffee table, sized book of the times, trials, and tribulations" of the 307th during its life span?? If there is such a book, would you happen to know where a feller just might be able to lay his grubby little (?) paws on it???

As to "the lostmember list", I believe that sometime

ago I sent an update on one, H.D. Wells, aka Duane Wells, aka Hugh Duane Wells and he is now remarried and living at Box 1427, Keystone Hts, Florida, Zip 32656 phone number 904-473-3087....Wife's name is Kathleen. One thing that you should know; you may not get much out of from Duane as several years back he was in the auto radiator repair business and developed a very mental debilitating disease. Mike, his son and wife, Bonnie, with kids will be here on the way down to Florida in a couple'a days and I will "lay" the reunion on Mike and maybe we can get him to ORLANDO!! Is that still part of the Yew Ninetee States of America? I thought we gave it back to the Spanish a long time ago...!!

Sorry to hear about Joe Bolton...Your statement about "flying off into the sunset", very very nicely said..wish I had thought of it when son Mike and I did the book on the "Fightin" 451st Bomb Group" (published by Turner out of Paducah, KY) as I would have swiped your title "LAST FLIGHT" as a lead-in to our "HIGH SQUADRON" section for the deceased. Joe and I were in the OMS together and worked on the flight line together on many, many an occassion.

## MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

Helen, if you would please, let Hank know that "Willie" and I will, at least we have the reunion on our schedule, be attending but will have our travel trailer in tow as we plan on giving Duane and company a hard time for a few days either prior to or after the reunion. We've also got to look up some "Fightn" 451st, WW 11, buddies that we've been given to understand live in the Orlando area. The "Hi-Low" is all self contained,

CHAIRMAN, Al Stewart

### COMPUTER:

Vern Biaett  
Mike Gingrich

TREASURER, Ethel Dodge

NEWSLETTER, Helen Ecelbarger

### CHAIRMAN 1992 REUNION:

Hank Grogan  
Assisted by Betty Forgas

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

continued

Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351, please do so. We would like to see a maximum participation of all the personnel who were assigned to the 307th Bomb Wing.

### Editors Note:

Thanks to all of your quick responses for newsletter cash. It makes our newsletters so interesting when your letters appear.

Have the rest of you sent your goodies to Bill Darden  
1120 Westover Dr.  
Palatka, FL 32077-5328  
for the Silent Auction???



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Enclosed is a check for \$50.00 to assist in administrative expenses. This is made in memory of Smitty. (Maybe others would like to do the same for their loved ones).

Wanda Read called a few days ago and advised me of Raleigh Smith's death. I talked to Doris. She says it was a blessing, he was suffering so much.

Keep up the good work.  
Warm Regards, J.O. Britt

Editors Note: Thank you J.O. for the suggestion. I wanted to share your letter with the association.

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Dear Helen:  
This is to let you know that my husband, Lt. Col. Norman J. Gates, passed away on July 28th of this year.  
Sincerely,  
Shirley Gates  
1535 S. Curryer St  
Santa Maria, CA 93454

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Thankyou James E. Harvey  
for your \$20.00 contribution.

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Dear Helen:  
I'm inclined to be a little lazy. Therefore, please accept my cash gift of \$50.00.

Again, thanks for your help.  
Sincerely  
Lawrence C. Hall  
Germany

Helen:

Here is a note from Neil Cosantino telling us that James R. McElvain lost on an 111 mission during the Christmas bombing of N.V./SEA 1972.

Also the following were lost in the Vietnam war:

Ivel Freeman  
Leon Smith  
Fredrick D. Meo  
Courtney Weismueller  
Sincerely, Vern Biaett

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Thankyou Harold C. Morrison  
for your contribution of  
\$10.00.

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Helen:

Please make the following address change in your records effective 15 Nov 91; old, 24310 Mountain Loop Hwy, Granite Falls, WA to 420W Island View Dr. Camano Island, WA 98292  
Sincerely, Bob King

Editors Note: Also Bob we thank you for your \$10.00 contribution for the newsletter.

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Dear Helen: Thank you for the informative newsletter. We are looking forward to the May '92 Reunion and hope to see many of the folks we knew in the past. It was good to see "Jerry"

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Hoffman's picture in the newsletter shots. Martin and I go a long way back to when we knew Jerry and his kids in Lincoln. Our son, Richard used to know a boy named Ziegler (Gary?) and it was interesting to read Major Ziegler's letter regarding his son. Richard is ready to retire from the Navy in Jacksonville, shortly after Xmas.

The past year has been a very eventful and stressful one for us, we had a **Major** house fire \$45,000. damage in June. It took 3½ months to practically rebuild the house and replace what we lost. We will spend a very "Thankful" Thanksgiving knowing how fortunate we were not being in the house when it happened. Our dog, Beau, was rescued and is well. Ive had a minor heart episode and recovering - it was probably due to the stress I was under for the past 3-4 months.

Good Lord willing, we will be at the Reunion. Anyone needs a stop over on the way to Orlando, let us know. Will be glad to share our bed and board!!  
Enclosed is a check for \$50.00 for some of your expenses.  
Sincerely, Trudy and Marty  
519 Oak Ave, Niceville, FL  
32578-3312  
904-678-7382 (near Eglin AFB) Written by Martin Barth

Dear Mrs. Ecelbarger:  
With deep sorrow, I must inform you that my husband, Col Patrick J. Ness, a former St. Com Asst Deputy Comdr and later Dept Comdr for Oprs, of the 307th Bomb Wg, passed away 12 Oct 1991.  
Sincerely,  
Mrs. Joan S. Ness  
7430 34th St SO 802E  
St Petersburg, FL 33711

Dear Helen:  
Please take my name off your mailing list.  
As foster parents with 4 children, ages 5', 7, 10 and 16 it isn't likely we will ever get to any reunions. I was in the 307th Field Maint Sq from 1954 to 1962 so I probably wouldn't remember anyone anyhow.  
I'll keep your last newsletter in case we win a sweepstakes or something where we can afford the trip. Sounds like fun.  
Sincerely, Arvil Crane  
721 N 9th St  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Bob & Sue Goodrich  
3504 NE Royal Oaks Dr  
Vancouver, WA 98662  
thank you for your contribution to the newsletter. That \$50.00 check will help us maintain the newsletter.

Editors Note: Thank you John Crook, 9100 Haines Ave N.E. Albuquerque, NM 87112 for your welcomed contribution of \$10.00.

Dear Helen:

We are so sorry to read about the passing of Smitty Britt in your newsletter. Smitty and J.O. are true friends - In addition to Lincoln, we served with them in Labradore at a later date. A little donation to help with expenses

See you in Orlando.  
Earl Seawards

Editors Note:

Thank you for your check of \$25.00. It will be placed in the newsletter account.

Dear Helen:

Here is \$20.00 for mailing my newsletter.  
Sincerely,  
Lucille Kohlscheen

Dear Helen:

I wrote someone that had sent a newsletter last spring that Kenneth had died Dec 21, 1990.

I hate for all of you to send the letter when he isn't here any more.

Thank you Catharine Jean Gallagher  
301 N. Bay Drive  
Lynn Haven, FL 32444

Editors Note:

Dear Jean:

We will remove your name from our mailing list but you as a widow will always be welcome to our association reunions and membership in our group. If at anytime you want to be a member again, please notify us.

Dear Helen:

Time to send \$10.00 to help our on the postage. I will use a Christmas card so I can show off our two grand-daughters and our step grandson.

We will not make the one at Orlando in 1992. I will mail the slip to Hank Grogan so he will know I'm still around.

An early Christmas Gift this year. After 9 years, I finally got the father, mother, brother and sister of the the two Vietnamese Brothers I got out in 1982. They arrived the 6th of Dec 1991. So there is still a Santa Claus for old rascals like me. Have a good holiday season and a great 1992.  
Lloyd A. Hild and Mary

Editors Note:

Thank you Lloyd for your card and \$10.00 for the postage on the newsletter. We are all proud of you!!!!

**KINDNESS IS ONE THING YOU CAN'T  
GIVE AWAY, IT ALWAYS COMES BACK.**



Dear Mrs. Ecelbarger:  
Please remove: Jacob Guerand,  
330 Maplewood Lane, San  
Antonio, TX 78216 from your  
mailing list.

He is in the Veteran's Nursing  
Home, Kerrville, TX. He  
has Alzheimers. We never  
got to attend any of the  
reunions but I sure think  
its a great idea to get  
together

Mrs. Guerand  
330 Maplewood Lane  
San Antonio, TX 78216

Editors Note: Mrs Guerand  
you are welcome as a member  
of our association.

Dear Helen:

We want to thank you for  
sending us the newsletter  
of the 307th Bomb Wing;  
however, we were there for  
such a short period of time  
that time did not permit  
us to become closely  
affiliated with the Wing.  
We feel that it would be  
to your advantage financially  
to remove my husband's name  
from your mailing list.

We wish you the best of luck  
and hope for a successful  
reunion. Sincerely, Mrs.  
Robert O. Williams, 1039  
Elk Ct N. Winter Springs,  
FL 32708

Dear Helen:  
Barring unforeseen  
circumstances we do plan  
to attend the 307th Reunion  
in Orlando in May.

Best laid plans for the two  
previous reunions were  
cancelled due to Bi-Pass  
Surgery and various other  
things.

Enclosed is a check to help  
with the Newsletter. We  
do appreciate all the hard  
work you and all the others  
on the committee do.

Looking forward to May in  
Florida. Sincerely  
John & Georgie Messer

Editors Note:

Thank you for your kind words  
and your check for \$25.00.

Dear Mrs. Ecelbarger, Thank  
you for the interesting  
newsletter. There's a lot  
of vim-and-vigor in the 307th.

Your efforts and the efforts  
of the other staff people  
are appreciated very much.  
Best regards, Bill Gillespie.

Editors Note: Thank you  
Bill for your note and \$25.00  
check.

Dear Helen:

Thanks for the newsletter,  
it keeps us current on the  
307th happenings.  
Enclosed \$20.00 to help off  
set some newsletter postage  
expenses.

See you in Orlando  
Joe and Irene Biggs

## ARE YOU COMING TO ORLANDO?

Names of Members who intend to attend. If your name is not here, please send us your intentions on the enclosed form.

Adam Aslaender  
Martin Barth  
Margot Berkovitz  
George Biggs  
Bruce Bradfield  
Cecel Braeden  
Laurie Buntin  
Ray Coley  
William Connors  
John Crook  
Donald Daley  
James Daniels  
Bill Darden  
George Davis  
Hale Dodge  
Virgil Domino  
Helen Ecelbarger  
Betty Forgas  
Darrell Gallenberger  
Mike Gingrich  
Robert Goodrich  
Donal Gosting  
Hank Grogan  
Theodore Hqagelee  
Lawrence Hall from Germany  
Robert Hall  
james Harvey  
Glen Hesler  
Don Hesse  
John Holt  
James Houghtby  
George Iannacito  
Harry Jones  
Robert Ketchum  
Robert King  
Vince Kovacich

Harry Krebs  
Jim Lancaster  
Willie Lawson  
Hames Lehr  
Janie Marvel  
Marvin Lundgren  
Billy Lyons  
John Mattioli  
Kenneth McGee  
John Messer  
Tony Minick  
Wally Mitchell  
  
Peter Myatt  
Sam Myers  
Donald Nigro  
Robert Nystrom  
John Ogren  
Betty Pelletier  
Charles Passante  
Robert Patterson  
Elzie Pettis  
Corinne Philips  
Clayton Scott  
Earl Seawards  
Leo Shulgin  
Clarence Southerland  
Everett Terry  
Ralph Utech  
George Nigh  
Richard Valen  
Fred Varn  
Robert Weidner  
Merle Young

307th BOMB WING B-47/KC-97 ASSOCIATION

TREASURERS REPORT 1-5-92

ASSETS :

Beginning Balance	8-31-91		2987.64
Interest earned thru	12-31-91		38.35
Donations:			
R. Patterson	25.00	S. Hill	30.00
H. Morrison	10.00	H. Morrison	10.00
H. Krebs	25.00	J. Britt	50.00
J. Ogren	15.00	E. Seawards	25.00
W. Hathaway	25.00	J. Messer	25.00
R. Goodrich	50.00	G. Biggs	20.00
J. Crook	10.00	R. King	10.00
L. Hall	50.00	M. Barth	50.00
J. Harvey	20.00	W. Gillispie	25.00
J. Henderson	15.00	G. Lally	<u>10.00</u>
			500.00
			<u>500.00</u>
			3525.99

LIABILITIES :

Grogan - Down payment on band	350.00
Gingrich -Postage and phone	41.73
Helen E - Postage	160.67
Helen E - Postage	67.31
Paula (Helen)- Postage	16.18
Helen E - Postage advance	160.00
News letter	
Helen E - Postage 307th stamp	75.00
Postmaster	
Weeks - Printing	422.92
Helen E - Supplies	2.52
Helen E - Silent auction items	<u>43.00</u>
	1339.33

Ending Balance 2186.66  
*Ethel L. Dodge*  
 Ethel L. Dodge  
 Treasurer